

Message Text

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62

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 NEA-14 EUR-25 AF-10 IO-14 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /169 W

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R 290026Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3273

INFO USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 3210

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, AS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE DESPATCH OF AUSTRALIAN TROOPS TO REPLACE IRISH
TROOPS IN UNEF

1. AUSTRALIAN PRESS AFTERNOON OF MAY 28 (LOCAL TIME) REPORTS
THAT AUSTRALIA HAS OFFERED TO REPLACE IRISH CONTINGENT IN UNEF
IN MIDDLE EAST, FOLLOWING PLANS TO WITHDRAW LATTER DUE TO
POLITICAL TROUBLES IN IRELAND.

2. DFA (MICHAEL WILSON, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DEFENSE POLICY
BRANCH) TELLS US THAT STORY IS ESSENTIALLY CORRECT BUT THAT
IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER UN WILL TAKE UP AUSTRALIAN OFFER.
WILSON RECALLED THAT AUSTRALIA HAD OFFERED TO SEND CONTINGENT
TO UNEF LAST OCTOBER BUT OFFER HAD NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY UN FOR
NUMBER OF REASONS, INCLUDING OTHER OFFERS AND CONSIDERATION OF
POLITICAL "BALANCE" OF UNEF. AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO UN HAS BEEN
AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENT WITH
SECRETARY GENERAL'S OFFICE AND HAS REVIEWED MATTER WITH
URQUHART. HOWEVER, URQUHART DOUBTS AUSTRALIAN OFFER WILL BE
TAKEN UP, DUE TO POSSIBLE SOVIET OPPOSITION TO ANOTHER BRITISH
COMMONWEALTH CONTINGENT IN UNEF IN ADDITION TO CANA-
DIANS. AUSTRALIAN PERM REP AT UN HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED
TO RESPOND POSITIVELY IF ASKED BY UN TO SEND CONTIN-

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GENT TO REPLACE IRISH, IN INSTRUCTION DATED MAY 24. AS

OF AFTERNOON OF MAY 28 (LOCAL TIME) AUSTRALIAN DEPT OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS HAD NO RESPONSE ON OFFER AND DOES
NOT KNOW WHAT ACTION LIKELY.

3. WILSON TOLD EMBASSY THAT DFA UNDERSTANDS THAT NIGERIA
AND ZAIRE HAVE ALSO OFFERED TO REPLACE IRISH AND SPECU-
LATED THAT THEY MIGHT BE MORE ACCEPTABLE CANDIDATES THAN
AUSTRALIA.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CANBER03210
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740134-0076
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740512/aaaaajwb.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE DESPATCH OF AUSTRALIAN TROOPS TO REPLACE IRISH TROOPS IN UNEF
TAGS: MASS, AS, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005